

## **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR TUNA**

Tuna are highly migratory species and generally found off Maryland's coast in federal waters. Management of tunas is coordinated with the NMFS. A review of tuna regulations revealed that it's time to once again update those regulations to provide more consistency with NMFS, reduce confusion with state and federal regulations, and provide flexibility in how tuna are landed. The Department is considering the following changes:

- 1) The Department would like to add bigeye tuna to the list of in need of conservation. According to the information in the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), July 2006, bigeye tuna need protection against the potential negative impacts resulting from an unregulated fishery. This will allow the Natural Resources Police to enforce the federal limits under state authority.
- 2) The Department is recommending changes that incorporate flexibility in how fish are landed consistent with NMFS to the recreational and commercial bluefin and yellowfin fisheries.